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s/ Jan Hostasa
Jan Hostasa

Attorney Docket No.: 24764A

1771
#7
O. Guen
4/17/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Ables

Serial No.: 09/593,550 ✓
Confirmation No. 7906 ✓

Filed: June 14, 2000 ✓

For: String Binders and Method for Making Same ✓

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Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Guarriello ✓

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APR 15 2002
TC 1700

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 11, 2002, the Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement requiring Applicants to elect one invention. Applicants hereby provisionally elect claims 17, 18, 22-31 Group (II) with traverse.

While Applicants agree with the Examiner that the subject matter of Groups I and II are independent and patentably distinct, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related and that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above remarks, or if it would in any way expedite the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3-26-02